SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Just one second. Sir, very often, I have been besieged by suggestions and representations from hon. Members of Parliament themselves that the corporation like ITI and Hindustan Cables should be merged with BSNL and MTNL so that they can survive. Here is a small attempt to keep the unit alive, otherwise, it would have gone into BIFR, and, the livelihood of a large number of employees would have been in danger ...(*Interruptions*)... But, the financial results have not yet been declared. We are precisely trying to do that ...(*Interruptions*)... But the financial results have not been declared. (*Interruptions*). What can I say about it?

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, to say that the (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, look at the watch. Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Mobile services in Jharkhand

†*266. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sanchar Nigam or any other company has not yet succeeded in launching mobile services in Dakara (Ranchi), Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any efforts have been made so far to launch mobile services in this town; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the Sanchar Nigam is likely to launch the said services in the area?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) Sir, Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) has not yet been introduced in Dakara, a town located in Ranchi Revenue District of Jharkhand. BSNL plans to cover Dakara with CMTS during the current financial year.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

According to the terms and conditions of the Licence for CMTS, an operator for Telecom Circle Service Area is required to cover 10% of District Headquarters in the Service Area within one year and 50% of District Headquarters within three years. The Licensee is also permitted to cover any other town in a district in lieu of the District Headquarter. The choice of District Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/towns shall lie with the Licensee depending on their business decision. It is not mandatory under the CMTS Licence Agreement to cover 100% of the Service Area.

Provision of free of cost handsets by cellular companies

*270 SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL is considering to provide handsets free of cost to customers as part of its tariff plans as is being done by one of the service providers these days; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present to provide free handsets to customers.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Procurement of sub-standard paddy

*271. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that FCI procured 2.91 lakh MT of paddy valued at Rs. 160.05 crore during the period from 1997-98 to 2000-2001 which was found to be sub-standard;

(b) what action has been taken against the delinquent officials; and

(c) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor?